

PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

HIROSHI SATOMI ET AL.

Application No.: 09/547,397

Filed: April 11, 2000

For: INFORMATION SEARCH
METHOD, INFORMATION
SEARCH APPARATUS, AND
STORAGE MEDIUM

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: Examiner: G. Liang
)
: Group Art Unit: 2172

December 11, 2002

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Technology Center 2100

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Sir:

In compliance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. § 1.56 and in accordance with the practice under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98, the Examiner's attention is directed to the documents listed on the enclosed PTO-1449 form. Copies of the listed documents are also enclosed.

The concise explanation of relevance for the non-English documents is given in the attached English-language abstracts. In addition, the Examiner is requested to consider the following comments:

JPA 8-223206 discloses a well-known mechanism of an IP address, in which, when an IP address of 32 bits is sorted with a network number portion and a host number portion, a number of bits for the network number portion is assigned according to classes A to C. When using a sub-network, a sub-network portion of an IP address is extracted from the IP address by means of a sub-net mask.

STATEMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e)

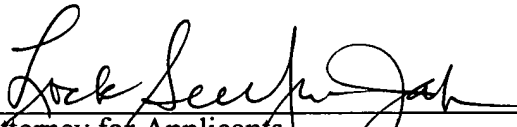
Each item of information in this Information Disclosure Statement was first cited in any communication from a foreign Patent Office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing date of this Statement.

To the best of Applicants' knowledge, neither a final Office Action nor a Notice of Allowance has been mailed for this application.

It is respectfully requested that the above information be considered by the Examiner and that a copy of the enclosed PTO-1449 form be returned indicating that such information has been considered.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address given below.

Respectfully submitted,



Attorney for Applicants
LOCK SEE YU - JAMES
Registration No. 38,667

FITZPATRICK, CELLA, HARPER & SCINTO
30 Rockefeller Plaza
New York, New York 10112-3801
Facsimile: (212) 218-2200